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PSB M-8

M I N U T E S

Eighth Meeting of the
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
January 10, 1952 2:00 p.m.
Room 3E928, Pentagon

MEMBERS:

General Walter B. Smith, Director of Central Intelligence,
Chairman
Honorable William C. Foster, Deputy Secretary of Defense
25X1A Honorable James E. Webb, Under Secretary of State
25X1A [REDACTED] Director, Psychological Strategy Board
[REDACTED] former Director, Psychological Strategy Board

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Department of State
Mr. Edward W. Barrett, Assistant Secretary of State for
Public Affairs
Department of Defense
Brig. Gen. John A. Magruder, USA (Ret'd)
Joint Chiefs of Staff
Brig. Gen. Jesmond D. Balmer, USA
Central Intelligence Agency
Frank Wisner, Deputy Director

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Psychological Strategy Board

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Executive Officer

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Approval of Minutes of Sixth Meeting

Action:

At the request of the Chairman, the minutes of the sixth meeting were approved without discussion.

Agenda Item 1. - Plan for Conducting Psychological Operations During General Hostilities (PSB D-8a)

Discussion:

Mr. Foster reported that the comments of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the subject Plan had just come to him for review so that he had not as yet had an opportunity to analyze them thoroughly. These comments included some points which will require consideration of the Board. He advised that there would be a presentation of the points of difference at the next meeting of the Board.

General Balmer briefly discussed the comments of the Joint Chiefs of Staff which proposed certain changes to the Plan. Since such changes involved matters of substance the Board decided to defer action until a future meeting in order to permit each member to study the proposed changes and their effect on the Plan.

Agenda Item 2. - Plan to Assure the Continued Orientation of Japan toward the West.

Action:

The Board requested the Director to make recommendations to it at the next meeting concerning the assignment of responsibility for the development of the subject Plan.

Discussion:

Mr. Webb proposed that State Department staff should take the lead in drafting the basic Plan, which would contain annexes developed jointly with CIA and JCS. Mr. Webb stated his belief that the responsibility for preparing a Plan such as this should be assigned to the member agency having the major interest. Consequently, such agency rather than PSB should chair the panel or study group preparing the Plan.

Mr. Foster recognized that the primarily interested department must make a major contribution to the preparation of a Plan, as State will have to do in the subject Plan. He suggested, however, that PSB should retain the responsibility for preparation in order to discharge its duty under its directive of coordinating the efforts of all interested departments. Mr. Foster then mentioned the possibility of having the chairman chosen from the agency with the primary interest but having him discharge his duties as chairman as a representative of PSB. [REDACTED] indicated that this might be a proper solution.

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General Smith said that his staff had commented that the present State Department paper is more of a general treatise than a workable national psychological plan; it is, however, a good point of departure for the preparation of such a plan. The CIA staff recommended that the Plan be evolved by a PSB panel, but General Smith indicated no preference for either of the two approaches presented.

Progress Report:PSB D-18 - Program for Soviet Orbit Escapees.

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[REDACTED] inquired of Mr. Foster as to Defense's position on the questions reported in the PSB Minutes of the Seventh Meeting. Mr. Foster stated that Defense had no objection to the transfer of [REDACTED] from MSA funds provided this transfer of funds will contribute to the basic purpose of the Kersten Amendment. Mr. Foster expressed some doubt as to the existence of an overall plan which met the specifications of the Kersten Amendment.

Mr. Foster indicated his intention of writing a letter to Mr. Ohly of MSA along the foregoing lines.

General Smith observed that the language of the Kersten Amendment was pretty elastic: "either to form such persons into elements of military forces supporting NATO or for other purposes". (Underlining supplied). It was his belief that the escapee program would easily fall within the intent of this language.

Mr. Webb advised that the Department of State had been in contact with Mr. Walter who has been in close touch with Mr. Vorys. These gentlemen are agreed that the proposed escapee program was envisaged by the Congress in passing the Kersten Amendment. This view, said Mr. Webb, is also borne out in the position Mr. Vorys took at the recent UN meeting when the Russians raised the escapee matter. Mr. Webb believes there will be no problem in obtaining Congressional assent to using the MSA money.

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Mr. Webb reported that the State Department had gone ahead with its responsibilities [REDACTED]-18. He advised that the Ford Foundation is prepared to provide \$500,000. The Department has located responsibility for carrying out this program, Mr. Webb said, in the Bureau of United Nations Affairs.

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[REDACTED] reported that MSA had indicated preliminarily that the transfer of [REDACTED] million was an appropriate expenditure of funds. He also advised that MSA, as soon as it learns from Defense, is prepared to talk with Senators and Representatives concerning the proposed transfer of MSA funds.

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Post Agenda Items:

1. Mr. Webb reported that Mr. Ralph Block had been designated to represent the State Department in the group concerned with development of policy on statements concerning certain novel weapons.

2. Representatives of the JCS, Army, Navy and Air Force presented a briefing entitled: "The Organization and Operations within the Military Establishment in the Field of Psychological Operations."

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